

248983US-2DIV
Oblon, Spivak et al.
Inv: Michiaki Hiyoshi
Parent App. Serial No. 09/917,876

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present application is a division of application Serial No. 09/917,876, filed on July 31, 2001, which is a division of Application Serial No. 09/311,055, filed on May 14, 1999 (now U.S. Patent 6,297,549, issued October 2, 2001). Claims 15-19 are present in this application. Claims 1-14 are canceled by way of the present amendment.

Accordingly, examination on the merits is in order, and an early and favorable decision is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Carl E. Schlier
Registration No. 34,426

EHK/CES/maj
I:\ATTY\CES\248983US.PRELIM.DOC